

§ 41.102

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§ 41.102 Personal appearance of applicant.

(a) *Personal appearance required or waived.* Except as otherwise provided in this section, every alien seeking a nonimmigrant visa is required to apply in person before a consular officer. The requirement of personal appearance may be waived by the consular officer in the case of any alien who is:

- (1) A child under 14 years of age;
- (2) Within a class of nonimmigrants classifiable under the visa symbols A, C-2, C-3, G, or NATO;
- (3) An applicant for a diplomatic or official visa;
- (4) Within a class of nonimmigrants classifiable under the visa symbols B, C-1, H-1, or I;
- (5) Within a class of nonimmigrants classifiable under the visa symbol J-1 who qualifies as a leader in a field of specialized knowledge or skill and also is the recipient of a U.S. Government grant, and such an alien's spouse and children qualifying for J-2 classification;
- (6) An aircraft crewman, applying for a nonimmigrant visa under the provisions of INA 101(a)(15)(D), if the application is supported by a letter from the employing carrier certifying that the applicant is employed as an aircraft crewman, and the consular officer is satisfied that the personal appearance of the alien is not necessary to determine visa eligibility; or
- (7) A nonimmigrant in any category, provided the consular officer determines that a waiver of personal appearance in the individual case is warranted in the national interest or because of unusual circumstances, including hardship to the visa applicant.

(b) *Interview by consular officer.* Except when the requirement of personal appearance has been waived by the consular officer pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, each applicant for a nonimmigrant visa must be interviewed by a consular officer, who shall determine on the basis of the applicant's representations and the visa application and other relevant documentation (1) the proper nonimmigrant classification, if any, of the alien and

(2) the alien's eligibility to receive a visa.

[52 FR 42597, Nov. 5, 1987; 53 FR 9112, Mar. 21, 1988, as amended at 66 FR 38542, July 25, 2001; 67 FR 66046, Oct. 30, 2002]

§ 41.103 Filing an application and Form OF-156.

(a) *Filing an application*—(1) *Filing of application on Form OF-156 required unless waived.* The consular officer may waive submission of an application, under paragraph (a)(3) of this section, for certain aliens for whom personal appearance has been waived under § 41.102. Except for persons for whom such waivers have been granted, every alien seeking a nonimmigrant visa must make application therefor on Form OF-156, Nonimmigrant Visa Application, unless a prior Form OF-156 is readily available at the consular office which can be appropriately amended to bring the application up to date.

(2) *Filing of Form OF-156 by alien under 16 or physically incapable.* The application for an alien under 16 years of age or one physically incapable of completing an application may be completed and executed by the alien's parent or guardian, or, if the alien has no parent or guardian, by any person having legal custody of, or a legitimate interest in, the alien.

(3) *Waiver of filing of application.* (i) When personal appearance is waived under § 41.102(a)(2) or (3) the consular officer may also waive the filing of a visa application.

(ii) When personal appearance is waived under § 41.102(a)(7), the consular officer may also waive the filing of a visa application in cases of hardship, emergency, or national interest.

(iii) Even if personal appearance is waived pursuant to any other subparagraph of § 41.102(a), the requirement for filing an application may not be waived.

(b) *Application form*—(1) *Preparation of Form OF-156, Nonimmigrant Visa Application.* (i) The consular officer shall ensure that Form OF-156 is fully and properly completed in accordance with the applicable regulations and instructions.

(ii) If the filing of a visa application is waived by the consular officer, the officer shall prepare a Form OF-156 on